

10 indicated by the selection.--

²
--~~69~~. The method of claim ~~68~~¹, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software.--

³
--~~70~~. The method of claim ~~68~~¹, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

Added
⁴
--~~71~~. The method of claim ~~68~~¹, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software should be received.--

⁵
--~~72~~. The method of claim ~~68~~¹, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

⁶
--~~73~~. The method of claim ~~68~~¹, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

⁷
--~~74~~. The method of claim ~~68~~¹, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the user.--

⁸
--~~75~~. The method of claim ~~68~~¹, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

⁹
--~~76~~. The method of claim ~~68~~¹, wherein, once the software indicated by the selection is

received from the remote computer system, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

¹⁰
--~~77~~. The method of claim ~~68~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

¹¹
--~~78~~. The method of claim ~~68~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

¹²
--~~79~~. The method of claim ~~68~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

¹³
--~~80~~. The method of claim ~~68~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

¹⁴
--~~81~~. The method of claim ~~68~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

¹⁵
--~~82~~. The method of claim ~~68~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

¹⁶
--~~83~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:
providing information enabling the user station to present a directory of software available

for installation on the user station and not already installed on the user station based on the
5 information and an identification of software installed on the user station;

receiving at the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of
software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected by a user
at the user station responsive to the directory; and

10 distributing to the user station over the communications network software indicated by the
selection.--

Added
¹⁷
--~~84~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the
user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software.--

¹⁸
--~~85~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer
system.--

¹⁹
--~~86~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received
from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software should be received.--

²⁰
--~~87~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a
communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

²¹
--~~88~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a
communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the
communication occurs according to a schedule.--

²²
--~~89~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a
communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the
communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the user.--

²³
~~--90~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

²⁴
~~--91~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein, once the software is distributed to the user station, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

Added
²⁵
~~--92~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

²⁶
~~--93~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

²⁷
~~--94~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

²⁸
~~--95~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

²⁹
~~--96~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

³⁰
~~--97~~. The method of claim ¹⁶~~83~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

³¹
--~~98~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

presenting, at the user station, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, a directory of software available for installation on the user station;

5 sending to the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected at the user station as a function of the directory; and

receiving from the remote computer system over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

31
32 ³¹
--~~99~~. The method of claim ~~98~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

31
33 ³¹
--~~100~~. The method of claim ~~98~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

31
34 ³¹
--~~101~~. The method of claim ~~98~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software should be received.--

31
35 ³¹
--~~102~~. The method of claim ~~98~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

31
36 ³¹
--~~103~~. The method of claim ~~98~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

³¹
--~~104~~. The method of claim ~~98~~³¹, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

³⁸
--~~105~~. The method of claim ~~98~~³¹, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

Added
³⁹
--~~106~~. The method of claim ~~98~~³¹, wherein, once the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

⁴⁰
--~~107~~. The method of claim ~~98~~³¹, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

⁴¹
--~~108~~. The method of claim ~~98~~³¹, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

⁴²
--~~109~~. The method of claim ~~98~~³¹, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

⁴³
--~~110~~. The method of claim ~~98~~³¹, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

⁴⁴
--~~111~~. The method of claim ~~98~~³¹, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

⁴⁵
--~~112~~. The method of claim ³¹~~98~~, wherein:

the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and

the communication is initiated by a user action.--

⁴⁶
--~~113~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

providing information enabling the user station to present a directory of software available for installation on the user station based on the information and an identification of software installed on the user station;

receiving at the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected at the user station as a function of the directory; and

distributing to the user station over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

⁴⁷
--~~114~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

⁴⁸
--~~115~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

⁴⁹
--~~116~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software should be received.--

⁵⁰
--~~117~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a

communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

⁵¹
--~~118~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

⁵²
--~~119~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

⁵³
--~~120~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

⁵⁴
--~~121~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein, once the software is distributed to the user station, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

⁵⁵
--~~122~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

⁵⁶
--~~123~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

⁵⁷
--~~124~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

⁵⁸
--~~125~~. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a

computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

⁵⁹
--126. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

⁶⁰
--127. The method of claim ⁴⁶~~113~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

⁶¹
--128. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

presenting, at the user station, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, a directory of software available for installation on the user station;

5 sending to the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected by a user at the user station as a function of the directory; and

receiving from the remote computer system over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

⁶²
--129. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software.--

⁶³
--130. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

⁶⁴
--~~131~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software should be received.--

⁶⁵
--~~132~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

⁶⁶
--~~133~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

⁶⁷
--~~134~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the user.--

⁶⁸
--~~135~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

⁶⁹
--~~136~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein, once the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

⁷⁰
--~~137~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

⁷¹
--~~138~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

⁷²
--~~139~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

⁷³
--~~140~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

⁷⁴
--~~141~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

⁷⁵
--~~142~~. The method of claim ⁶¹~~128~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

⁷⁶
--~~143~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

providing information enabling the user station to present a directory of software available for installation on the user station based on the information and an identification of software installed on the user station;

receiving at the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected by a user at the user station as a function of the directory; and

distributing to the user station over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

77 76
~~--144.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~⁷⁶, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software.--

78 76
~~--145.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~⁷⁶, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

79 76
~~--146.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~⁷⁶, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software should be received.--

80 76
~~--147.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~⁷⁶, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

81 76
~~--148.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~⁷⁶, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

82 76
~~--149.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~⁷⁶, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the user.--

83 76
~~--150.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~⁷⁶, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

84 76
~~--151.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~⁷⁶, wherein, once the software is distributed to the user station, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

85 76
~~--152.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

86 76
~~--153.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

87 76
~~--154.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

88 76
~~--155.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

89 76
~~--156.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

90 76
~~--157.~~ The method of claim ~~143~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

91
~~--158.~~ A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

responsive to an identification of software already installed on the user station, presenting, at the user station, a directory of software available for installation but not installed on the user station;

sending to the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected by a user at the user station responsive to the directory; and

10 receiving from the remote computer system over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

92 91
--159. The method of claim 158, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software.--

93 91
--160. The method of claim 158, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

94 91
--161. The method of claim 158, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software should be received.--

Sub
C2 95 91
--162. The method of claim 158, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

96 91
--163. The method of claim 158, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

97 91
--164. The method of claim 158, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the user.--

98 91
--165. The method of claim 158, wherein the method is initiated in response to a

communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

⁹⁹
--~~166~~. The method of claim ⁹¹~~158~~, wherein, once the software is distributed to the user station, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

¹⁰⁰
--~~167~~. The method of claim ⁹¹~~158~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

al Cont'd
¹⁰¹
--~~168~~. The method of claim ⁹¹~~158~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

¹⁰²
--~~169~~. The method of claim ⁹¹~~158~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

¹⁰³
--~~170~~. The method of claim ⁹¹~~158~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

¹⁰⁴
--~~171~~. The method of claim ⁹¹~~158~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

¹⁰⁵
--~~172~~. The method of claim ⁹¹~~158~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

¹⁰⁶
~~--173.~~ A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

providing information enabling the user station to present a directory of software available for installation but not installed on the user station based on the information and an identification of software installed on the user station;

receiving at the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected by a user at the user station responsive to the directory; and

distributing to the user station over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

¹⁰⁷ ¹⁰⁶
~~--174.~~ The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software.--

¹⁰⁶ ¹⁰⁶
~~--175.~~ The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

¹⁰⁹ ¹⁰⁶
~~--176.~~ The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software should be received.--

¹¹⁰ ¹⁰⁶
~~--177.~~ The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

¹¹¹ ¹⁰⁶
~~--178.~~ The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

112

106

--~~179~~. The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the user.--

113

106

--~~180~~. The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

114

106

--~~181~~. The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein, once the software is distributed to the user station, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

115

106

--~~182~~. The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

116

106

--~~183~~. The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

117

106

--~~184~~. The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

118

106

--~~185~~. The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

119

106

--~~186~~. The method of claim ~~173~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

¹²⁰
--~~187~~. The method of claim ¹⁰⁶~~173~~, wherein:

the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and

the communication is initiated by a user action.--

could
¹²¹
--~~188~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

presenting, at the user station, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, a directory of software available for installation on the user station and not
5 already installed on the user station;

sending to the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected at the user station as a function of the directory; and

receiving from the remote computer system over the communications network software
10 indicated by the selection.--

¹²²
--~~189~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

¹²³
--~~190~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

¹²⁴
--~~191~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software should be received.--

sub C-4 ¹²⁵
--~~192~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a

~~communication between the user station and the remote computer system.~~

¹²⁶
--~~193~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

Added
¹²⁷
--~~194~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

¹²⁸
--~~195~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

¹²⁹
--~~196~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein, once the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

¹³⁰
--~~197~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

¹³¹
--~~198~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

¹³²
--~~199~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

133

--~~200~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

134

Added
--~~201~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

135

--~~202~~. The method of claim ¹²¹~~188~~, wherein:

the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and

the communication is initiated by a user action.--

136

--~~203~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

providing information enabling the user station to present a directory of software available for installation on the user station and not already installed on the user station based on the information and an identification of software installed on the user station;

receiving at the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected at the user station as a function of the directory; and

distributing to the user station over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

137

--~~204~~. The method of claim ¹³⁶~~203~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

¹³⁵
~~--205.~~ The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

¹³⁹
~~--206.~~ The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software should be received.--

Added
¹⁴⁰
~~--207.~~ The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

¹⁴¹
~~--208.~~ The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

¹⁴²
~~--209.~~ The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

¹⁴³
~~--210.~~ The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

¹⁴⁴
~~--211.~~ The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein, once the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

¹⁴⁵
~~--212.~~ The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion

of the software already installed on the user station.--

¹⁴⁶
--~~213~~. The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

Added
¹⁴⁷
--~~214~~. The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

¹⁴⁸
--~~215~~. The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

¹⁴⁹
--~~216~~. The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

¹⁵⁰
--~~217~~. The method of claim ¹³⁶203, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

¹⁵¹
--~~218~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software updates from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

presenting, at the user station, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, a directory of software updates available for installation on the user station;

5 sending to the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software updates for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software updates is

selected at the user station as a function of the directory; and

receiving from the remote computer system over the communications network software updates indicated by the selection.--

152

151

--219. The method of claim 218, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

153

151

--220. The method of claim 218, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

154

151

--221. The method of claim 218, wherein the software updates indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software updates should be received.--

155

151

--222. The method of claim 218, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

156

151

--223. The method of claim 218, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

157

151

--224. The method of claim 218, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

158

151

--225. The method of claim 218, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the

communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

¹⁵⁹
--~~226~~. The method of claim ¹⁵¹~~218~~, wherein, once the software updates indicated by the selection are received from the remote computer system, the software updates are automatically installed on the user station.--

Added
¹⁶⁰
--~~227~~. The method of claim ¹⁵¹~~218~~, wherein the directory describes software updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

¹⁶¹
--~~228~~. The method of claim ¹⁵¹~~218~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

¹⁶²
--~~229~~. The method of claim ¹⁵¹~~218~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

¹⁶³
--~~230~~. The method of claim ¹⁵¹~~218~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

¹⁶⁴
--~~231~~. The method of claim ¹⁵¹~~218~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software updates indicated by the directory.--

¹⁶⁵
--~~232~~. The method of claim ¹⁵¹~~218~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and

the communication is initiated by a user action.--

¹⁶⁶
--~~233~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software updates from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

providing information enabling the user station to present a directory of software updates available for installation on the user station based on the information and an identification of software installed on the user station;

receiving at the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software updates for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software updates is selected at the user station as a function of the directory; and

distributing to the user station over the communications network software updates indicated by the selection.--

¹⁶⁷
--~~234~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶~~233~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

¹⁶⁸
--~~235~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶~~233~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

¹⁶⁹
--~~236~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶~~233~~, wherein the software updates indicated by the selection are received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software updates should be received.--

¹⁷⁰
~~--~~237~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶~~233~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.~~

¹⁷¹
--~~238~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶~~233~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a

communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

¹⁷²
--~~239~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶233, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

Cont'd
¹⁷³
--~~240~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶233, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

¹⁷⁴
--~~241~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶233, wherein, once the software updates are distributed to the user station, the software updates are automatically installed on the user station.--

¹⁷⁵
--~~242~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶233, wherein the directory describes software updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

¹⁷⁶
--~~243~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶233, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

¹⁷⁷
--~~244~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶233, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

¹⁷⁸
--~~245~~. The method of claim ¹⁶⁶233, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal

digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

¹⁷⁹
--~~246~~. The method of claim 233, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software updates indicated by the directory.--

Added ¹⁸⁰
--~~247~~. The method of claim 233, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

¹⁸¹
--~~248~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software updates from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:
presenting, at the user station, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, a directory of software updates available for installation on the user station and
5 not already installed on the user station;

sending to the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software updates for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software updates is selected at the user station as a function of the directory; and

10 receiving from the remote computer system over the communications network software updates indicated by the selection.--

¹⁸²
--~~249~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹~~248~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

¹⁸³
--~~250~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹~~248~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

¹⁸⁴
~~251~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein the software updates indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software updates should be received.--

¹⁸⁵
~~252~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.

¹⁸⁶
~~253~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

¹⁸⁷
~~254~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

¹⁸⁸
~~255~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

¹⁸⁹
~~256~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein, once the software updates indicated by the selection are received from the remote computer system, the software updates are automatically installed on the user station.--

¹⁹⁰
~~257~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein the directory describes software updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

¹⁹¹
~~258~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer

at the user station.--

¹⁹²
--~~259~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

Amended
¹⁹³
--~~260~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

¹⁹⁴
--~~261~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software updates indicated by the directory.--

¹⁹⁵
--~~262~~. The method of claim ¹⁸¹248, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

¹⁹⁶
--~~263~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software updates from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

providing information, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, enabling the user station to present a directory of software updates available for installation but not installed on the user station;

receiving at the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software updates for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software updates is selected at the user station as a function of the directory; and

10 distributing to the user station over the communications network software updates indicated by the selection.--

¹⁹⁷
--~~264~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

Al could
¹⁹⁸
--~~265~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

¹⁹⁹
--~~266~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the software updates indicated by the selection are received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software updates should be received.--

Sub 29
²⁰⁰
~~--267. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--~~

²⁰¹
--~~268~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

²⁰²
--~~269~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

²⁰³
--~~270~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

²⁰⁴
~~--271~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein, once the software updates are distributed to the user station, the software updates are automatically installed on the user station.--

²⁰⁵
~~--272~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the directory describes software updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

Could ²⁰⁶
~~--273~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

²⁰⁷
~~--274~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

²⁰⁸
~~--275~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

²⁰⁹
~~--276~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software updates indicated by the directory.--

²¹⁰
~~--277~~. The method of claim ¹⁹⁶~~263~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

²¹¹
~~--278~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software updates from a remote

computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

presenting, at the user station, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, a directory of software updates available for installation on the user station;

5 sending to the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software updates for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software updates is selected by a user at the user station as a function of the directory; and

receiving from the remote computer system over the communications network software updates indicated by the selection.--

212 *211*
--~~279~~. The method of claim ~~278~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software.--

213 *211*
--~~280~~. The method of claim ~~278~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

214 *211*
--~~281~~. The method of claim ~~278~~, wherein the software updates indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software updates should be received.--

215 *211*
--~~282~~. The method of claim ~~278~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

216 *211*
--~~283~~. The method of claim ~~278~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

217 *211*
--~~284~~. The method of claim ~~278~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a

communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the user.--

218

211

--285. The method of claim 278, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

219

211

--286. The method of claim 278, wherein, once the software updates indicated by the selection are received from the remote computer system, the software updates are automatically installed on the user station.--

220

211

--287. The method of claim 278, wherein the directory describes software updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

221

211

--288. The method of claim 278, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

222

211

--289. The method of claim 278, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

223

211

--290. The method of claim 278, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

224

211

--291. The method of claim 278, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software updates indicated by the

directory.--

225

211

--292. The method of claim 278, wherein:

the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and

the communication is initiated by a user action.--

226

--293. A computer implemented method for distributing software updates from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

providing information enabling the user station to present a directory of software updates available for installation on the user station based on the information and an identification of software installed on the user station;

receiving at the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software updates for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software updates is selected by a user at the user station as a function of the directory; and

distributing to the user station over the communications network software updates indicated by the selection.--

227

226

--294. The method of claim 293, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software.--

228

226

--295. The method of claim 293, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

229

226

--296. The method of claim 293, wherein the software updates indicated by the selection are received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software updates should be received.--

Sub
C.11

²³⁰
~~297. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.~~

²³¹
--298. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

Al
C.11

²³²
--299. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the user.--

²³³
--300. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

²³⁴
--301. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein, once the software updates are distributed to the user station, the software updates are automatically installed on the user station.--

²³⁵
--302. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein the directory describes software updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

²³⁶
--303. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

²³⁷
--304. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

²³⁸
--305. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

²³⁹
--306. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software updates indicated by the directory.--

²⁴⁰
--307. The method of claim ²²⁶293, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

²⁴¹
--308. A computer implemented method for installing software on a user station, the method comprising:

presenting, at the user station, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, a directory of software available for installation on the user station; and

installing a selection of software on the user station,

wherein:

the selection of software is selected at the user station as a function of the directory; and

the selection of software is received from a remote computer system over a communications network.--

²⁴²
--309. The method of claim ²⁴¹308, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

243 241
~~310.~~ The method of claim ~~308~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

244 241
~~311.~~ The method of claim ~~308~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software should be received.--

245 241
~~312.~~ The method of claim ~~308~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

246 241
~~313.~~ The method of claim ~~308~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

247 241
~~314.~~ The method of claim ~~308~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

248 241
~~315.~~ The method of claim ~~308~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

249 241
~~316.~~ The method of claim ~~308~~, wherein, once the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

250 241
~~317.~~ The method of claim ~~308~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

251

241

--318. The method of claim 308, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

252

241

--319. The method of claim 308, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

253

241

--320. The method of claim 308, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

254

241

--321. The method of claim 308, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

255

241

--322. The method of claim 308, wherein:

the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and

the communication is initiated by a user action.--

256

--323. A computer implemented method for installing software on a user station, the method comprising:

presenting, at the user station, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, a directory of software available for installation but not installed on the user station; and

installing a selection of software on the user station ,

wherein:

the selection of software is selected at the user station as a function of the directory; and

the selection of software is received from a remote computer system over a network.--

257

256

--324. The method of claim 323, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

258

256

--325. The method of claim 323, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

259

256

--326. The method of claim 323, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software should be received.--

260

256

--327. The method of claim 323, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

261

256

--328. The method of claim 323, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

262

256

--329. The method of claim 323, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

263

256

--330. The method of claim 323, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

264

256

--331. The method of claim 323, wherein, once the software indicated by the selection is

received from the remote computer system, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

265

256

--~~332~~. The method of claim ~~323~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

266

256

--~~333~~. The method of claim ~~323~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

267

256

--~~334~~. The method of claim ~~323~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

268

256

--~~335~~. The method of claim ~~323~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

269

256

--~~336~~. The method of claim ~~323~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

270

256

--~~337~~. The method of claim ~~323~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

271

--~~338~~. A computer implemented method for installing software on a user station, the method comprising:

presenting, at the user station, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, a directory of software available for installation on the user station and not already installed on the user station; and

installing on the user station a selection of software, wherein the selection of software is selected by a user at the user station as a function of the directory and wherein the selection of software is received from a remote computer system over a network.--

272
--~~339~~. The method of claim *271* ~~338~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software.--

273
--~~340~~. The method of claim *271* ~~338~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

274
--~~341~~. The method of claim *271* ~~338~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software should be received.--

275
~~Sub C/14~~ --~~342~~. The method of claim *271* ~~338~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.

276
--~~343~~. The method of claim *271* ~~338~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

277
--~~344~~. The method of claim *271* ~~338~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

²⁷⁸
~~--345.~~ The method of claim ²⁷¹~~338~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

²⁷⁹
~~--346.~~ The method of claim ²⁷¹~~338~~, wherein, once the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

Added
²⁸⁰
~~--347.~~ The method of claim ²⁷¹~~338~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

²⁸¹
~~--348.~~ The method of claim ²⁷¹~~338~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

²⁸²
~~--349.~~ The method of claim ²⁷¹~~338~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

²⁸³
~~--350.~~ The method of claim ²⁷¹~~338~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

²⁸⁴
~~--351.~~ The method of claim ²⁷¹~~338~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

²⁸⁵
~~--352.~~ The method of claim ²⁷¹~~338~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the

remote computer system; and

the communication is initiated by a user action.--

²⁸⁶
--~~353~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

responsive to an identification of software already installed on the user station, presenting, at the user station, a directory of software available for installation on the user station and not already installed on the user station;

⁵
sending to the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected responsive to the directory; and

receiving from the remote computer system over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

²⁸⁷ ²⁸⁶
--~~354~~. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

²⁸⁸ ²⁸⁶
--~~355~~. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

²⁸⁹ ²⁸⁶
--~~356~~. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software should be received.--

²⁹⁰ ²⁸⁶
~~sub C15~~ ~~357~~. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

²⁹¹
~~291~~ ²⁸⁶
--358. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

²⁹⁸
~~298~~ ²⁸⁶
--359. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

Added
²⁹⁹
~~299~~ ²⁸⁶
--360. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

²⁹⁴
~~294~~ ²⁸⁶
--361. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein, once the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

²⁹⁵
~~295~~ ²⁸⁶
--362. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

²⁹⁶
~~296~~ ²⁸⁶
--363. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

²⁹⁸
~~298~~ ²⁸⁶
--364. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

²⁹⁸
~~298~~ ²⁸⁶
--365. The method of claim ~~353~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal

communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

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--366. The method of claim 353, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

300

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Amid

--367. The method of claim 353, wherein:

the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and

the communication is initiated by a user action.--

302

--368. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

providing information enabling the user station to present a directory of software available for installation on the user station and not already installed on the user station based on the information and an identification of software installed on the user station;

receiving at the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected responsive to the directory; and

distributing to the user station over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

303

301

--369. The method of claim 368, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

303

301

--370. The method of claim 368, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

³⁰⁴
~~371~~. The method of claim ³⁰¹~~368~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software should be received.--

³⁰⁵
~~372~~. The method of claim ³⁰⁷~~368~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

³⁰⁶
~~373~~. The method of claim ³⁰⁷~~368~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

³⁰⁸
~~374~~. The method of claim ³⁰⁷~~368~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

³⁰⁹
~~375~~. The method of claim ³⁰⁷~~368~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

³⁰⁹
~~376~~. The method of claim ³⁰⁷~~368~~, wherein, once the software is distributed to the user station, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

³¹⁰
~~377~~. The method of claim ³⁰⁷~~368~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

³¹¹
~~378~~. The method of claim ³⁰⁷~~368~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

³¹⁸
--~~379~~. The method of claim ³⁰¹~~368~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

³¹⁹
--~~380~~. The method of claim ³⁰¹~~368~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

Added
³¹⁴
--~~381~~. The method of claim ³⁰¹~~368~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

³¹⁵
--~~382~~. The method of claim ³⁰¹~~368~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

Sub B1
--383. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

sending to the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected at the user station as a function of software available for installation on the user station and software not already installed on the user station; and

receiving from the remote computer system over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

³¹⁷
--~~384~~. The method of claim ³¹⁶~~383~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

318 316
~~385~~. The method of claim ~~383~~, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

319 316
~~386~~. The method of claim ~~383~~, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software should be received.--

320 316
~~387~~. The method of claim ~~383~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

321 316
~~388~~. The method of claim ~~383~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

322 316
~~389~~. The method of claim ~~383~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

323 316
~~390~~. The method of claim ~~383~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

324 316
~~391~~. The method of claim ~~383~~, wherein, once the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

325 316
~~392~~. The method of claim ~~383~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion

of the software already installed on the user station.--

³²⁶
--~~393~~. The method of claim ³¹⁶~~383~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

³²⁶
--~~394~~. The method of claim ³¹⁶~~383~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

aid
³²⁸
--~~395~~. The method of claim ³¹⁶~~383~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

³²⁹
--~~396~~. The method of claim ³¹⁶~~383~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

³³⁰
--~~397~~. The method of claim ³¹⁶~~383~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

Sub
62
--398. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:
receiving at the remote computer system over a communications network a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected at the user station as a function of software available for installation on the user station and software not already installed on the user station; and

distributing to the user station over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

332

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--399. The method of claim 398, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring a user of the user station to identify the software.--

333

331

--400. The method of claim 398, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

331

331

--401. The method of claim 398, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after a user of the user station confirms that the software should be received.--

335

331

--402. The method of claim 398, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.--

336

331

--403. The method of claim 398, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

337

331

--404. The method of claim 398, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

338

331

--405. The method of claim 398, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

³³⁹
~~339~~. The method of claim ³³¹~~398~~, wherein, once the software is distributed to the user station, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

³⁴⁰
~~407~~. The method of claim ³³¹~~398~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

Amended
³⁴¹
~~408~~. The method of claim ³³¹~~398~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

³⁴²
~~409~~. The method of claim ³³¹~~398~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

³⁴³
~~410~~. The method of claim ³³¹~~398~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

³⁴⁴
~~411~~. The method of claim ³³¹~~398~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

³⁴⁵
~~412~~. The method of claim ³³¹~~398~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

³⁴⁶
~~413~~. A computer implemented method for distributing software from a remote computer system to a user station, the method comprising:

providing information, responsive to an identification of software already installed on the user station, enabling the user station to present a directory of software available for installation on the user station and not already installed on the user station;

receiving, at the remote computer system over a communications network, a selection of software for distribution to the user station, wherein the selection of software is selected by a user at the user station responsive to the directory; and

distributing to the user station over the communications network software indicated by the selection.--

347 346
--414. The method of claim 413, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software.--

348 346
--415. The method of claim 413, wherein the directory is provided by the remote computer system.--

349 346
--416. The method of claim 413, wherein the software indicated by the selection is received from the remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software should be received.--

sub C19 350 346
~~--417. The method of claim 413, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system.~~

351 346
--418. The method of claim 413, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

352 346
--419. The method of claim 413, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the

communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the user.--

³⁵³
--420. The method of claim ³⁴⁶~~413~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system, and wherein the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

³⁵⁴
--421. The method of claim ³⁴⁶~~413~~, wherein, once the software is distributed to the user station, the software is automatically installed on the user station.--

Added
³⁵⁵
--422. The method of claim ³⁴⁶~~413~~, wherein the directory describes updates to at least a portion of the software already installed on the user station.--

³⁵⁶
--423. The method of claim ³⁴⁶~~413~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

³⁵⁷
--424. The method of claim ³⁴⁶~~413~~, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

³⁵⁸
--425. The method of claim ³⁴⁶~~413~~, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

³⁵⁹
--426. The method of claim ³⁴⁶~~413~~, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

³⁶⁰
--427. The method of claim ³⁴⁶~~413~~, wherein:

the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and the remote computer system; and

the communication is initiated by a user action.--

³⁶¹
~~428~~. The method of claim ³⁶⁶~~415~~, wherein the directory is prepared at the user station responsive to the identification of software already installed on the user station.--

Added
³⁶²
~~429~~. A computer implemented method for installing a software update on a user station, the method comprising:

presenting, at the user station, as a function of an identification of software already installed on the user station, a directory of software updates available for installation but not included in the

5 software already installed on the user station; and

installing a selected software update on the user station,
wherein:

the selected software update is selected by a user operating the user station as a function of the directory; and

10 the selected software update is received over a network.--

³⁶³
~~430~~. The method of claim ³⁶²~~429~~, wherein the identification of software already installed on the user station is determined without requiring the user to identify the software to a remote computer system.--

³⁶⁴
~~431~~. The method of claim ³⁶²~~429~~, wherein information for generating the directory is provided by a remote computer system.--

Sub C20
³⁶⁵
~~432~~. The method of claim ³⁶²~~429~~, wherein the selected software update is received from a remote computer system only after the user confirms that the software update should be received.--

³⁶⁴
--~~433~~. The method of claim ³⁶²~~429~~, wherein the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and a remote computer system.--

³⁶¹
--~~434~~. The method of claim ³⁶²~~429~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and a remote computer system; and
the communication occurs according to a schedule.--

Child
³⁶⁸
--~~435~~. The method of claim ³⁶²~~429~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and a remote computer system; and
the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by a user of the user station.--

³⁶⁹
--~~436~~. The method of claim ³⁶²~~429~~, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and a remote computer system; and
the communication occurs according to a schedule determined by the remote computer system.--

³⁷⁰
--~~437~~. The method of claim ³⁶²~~429~~, wherein, once the selected software update is received from a remote computer system, the software update is automatically installed on the user station.--

³⁷¹
--~~438~~. The method of claim ³⁶²~~429~~, wherein the directory further provides identification of software available for installation but not installed on the user station.--

³⁷²
--~~439~~. The method of claim ³⁶²~~429~~, wherein the method is facilitated using an HTML viewer at the user station.--

373

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--440. The method of claim 429, wherein the communications network includes the Internet.--

374

362

--441. The method of claim 429, wherein the user station comprises at least one of a computer, cable television controller, video game player, information kiosk, wired personal communicator, wireless personal communicator, personal information communicator, personal digital assistance, information appliance, and system controller.--

375

362

--442. The method of claim 429, wherein the method is facilitated using a user interface provided at the user station by an entity associated with the software indicated by the directory.--

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--443. The method of claim 429, wherein:
the method is initiated in response to a communication between the user station and a remote computer system; and
the communication is initiated by a user action.--

REMARKS

Claims 68-443 are pending in the application as a result of the instant Amendment. In the Amendment, claims 1-67 are cancelled in favor of new claims 68-443. A copy of the newly added claims without markings is provided in the attached Appendix.

While an Office Action dated November 21, 2002, rejecting all claims 1-67 was received, it is respectfully submitted that cancellation of claims 1-67 in favor of newly added claims 68-443 was for the purpose of pursuing method claims of broader scope. It is also respectfully submitted that claims 68-443 are fully supported by the application as filed and, thus, do not introduce prohibited new matter into the application.